



Information Sheet #1

Procedures Handbook 4300

COMPONENTS AND SAFETY
CONSIDERATIONS FOR PORTABLE
LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

PORTABLE LIGHTING

Adequate lighting on the fireground will not only contribute to efficiency but will also contribute to the safety of operations. Floodlight units are used in many departments to provide needed lighting. Although these units are extremely beneficial, the area they can illuminate is generally limited. Where intensely concentrated lighting is applied to the exterior of a building, an adjustment problem is created. As firefighters emerge from the dark, smoky interior of a structure the intense outside illumination may be temporarily blinding. Firefighters should be aware of this and exercise caution to avoid tripping over minor obstructions and hoselines.

Power cords for portable floodlight units should be selected from high visibility colors such as yellow or orange and should be properly insulated. Use logic when running power cords to floodlights and other electrical-powered equipment so as not to introduce unnecessary tripping hazards.

In addition to the illumination provided by floodlights, all firefighters should always carry reliable battery-operated flashlights for interior illumination. Flashlights provide for much safer operations when working inside a dark or smoke-filled facility. Daylight operations may also require a flashlight for efficiency and safety if working in concealed spaces such as pipe chases, attics and closets. Some departments have mounted lights on the firefighter's helmets or attached to turn-out coats. This is an excellent means of providing proper lighting while leaving both hands free to perform necessary tasks.

Generators should be operated in open areas or on specially designed mountings on the apparatus. When it is necessary to move generators into buildings, adequate ventilation for exhaust fumes must be provided. Refill power plant fuel tanks only when the engine is completely stopped. Store reserve fuel in approved safety cans. Inspect fuel storage areas on apparatus at least weekly to assure that leaks have not developed and that dents have not occurred during routine operations.